

REMARKS:

Claims 105, 107, 109-115, 117, 118, 127-130, 133-156, 159, 162-166, 168, 169, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180-193 were pending in the application. Claims 182 and 185 have been canceled. Claims 152 and 159 have been amended. Therefore, claims 105, 107, 109-115, 117, 118, 127-130, 133-156, 159, 162-166, 168, 169, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 183, 184, 186-193 will be pending in this application after entry of the present amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 105, 107, 109-115, 117, 118, 127-130, 133-151, 168-169, 171-172, 174-175 and 177-178, and 186-193 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for consideration of these claims. Claims 182 and 185 are also objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. As indicated below, Applicant has amended the features of claims 182 and 185 into claims 152 and 159, respectively.

Section 103 Rejections

Two independent claims—152 and 159—remain rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Kouznetsov (U.S. Patent No. 6,973,577) in view of Chess et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,346). Applicant disagrees with these rejections, at least for the reasons set forth in the previous responses. Nonetheless, in an effort to bring prosecution in the present case to a close, Applicant has amended claims 152 and 159 to include features from dependent claims 182 and 185, which are indicated as being allowable if placed in independent form. Applicant requests entry of the present amendment. Applicant thus submits that the present rejections are overcome, and requests removal of the pending § 103 rejections.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 152 and 159 in another application.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6002-00602/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 16, 2010

By: /Dean M. Munyon/
Dean M. Munyon
Reg. No. 42,914

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8847